



The Alabama Bicycle Coalition | P.O. Box 18984, Huntsville, AL 35804 | [www.alabike.org](http://www.alabike.org)

### **Sharing Alabama's Roadways:**

Bicyclists have the same rights and duties as motor vehicle drivers on roadways. Therefore bicyclists and motor vehicle drivers have equal access and responsibilities. **Cyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles.** See Alabama State Code 32-5A 260-286 for more details. *Additional regulations apply for Redstone Arsenal (Huntsville) cyclists.*

**Obey all traffic laws:** Bicycles are vehicles and must obey all traffic laws, including stop signs and traffic signals. You can be ticketed if you don't.

**Be predictable- Act like a vehicle.** Drive your bicycle in a smooth and predictable manner. Look ahead to allow time to calmly avoid obstacles. Communicate your intentions and signal before changing lanes or direction. Avoid abrupt maneuvers whenever possible; scan the road 100 feet ahead for hazards such as debris, railroad tracks, drainage grates, or potholes. Anticipate not only your actions, but the actions of others. *When entering a roadway from a driveway, alley, or curb look and yield to oncoming traffic.*

**Ride with traffic.** Ride on the right side of the lane going in your direction. Do not pass motorists on the right. If you approach an intersection with a right turn lane and intend to continue straight, move to the thorough lane. If you are turning left, signal and move over to the right side of the left lane.

**Signal your turns and before stopping.** Look (scan behind and in front) before you make a lane change or turn. When preparing to turn, slow, stop signal your intentions to others using hand and verbal warnings such as 'Turning (left/right)', 'stopping', 'slowing'.

**Be visible; especially at night.** Alabama state law requires a headlight visible from at least 500 feet and a rear red reflector when riding at night. *Number of crashes increase at night.* Flashing tail lights and light colored and/or reflective clothing are also highly recommended.

**Riding with others:** Alabama state law allows 2 cyclists to ride side by side but no more. Be courteous, if riding single file helps motorists pass, do it.

**Pull off the road when stopped.** If you need to stop, pull completely off the road to avoid obstructing other bicyclists and road users.

**Wear a helmet.** Alabama state law requires people under age of 16 to wear a helmet. It is also highly recommended for all.

***Before each trip do an ABC Quick check.*** *A is for air, B is for brakes, C is for cranks, chain, and cassette, and Quick is for Quick releases. It'll only take a minute.*

***Keep hydrated and fueled.*** *Drink before you are thirsty, eat before you are hungry.*

**When sharing with pedestrians and horseback riders:**

Avoid riding on sidewalks.

Yield to pedestrians and horseback riders.

Watch for pedestrians on roads that do not have sidewalks.

Announce yourself when passing others; 'passing on your left'

Let horses pass you; they endanger many when surprised.

Obey 10 mile per hour speed limit on greenways.

Be predictable, use the correct side of the greenway marked for bicyclists.

**Motorists:**

Treat cyclists as you would any other vehicle on the road – it's the law!

Expect cyclists to use the full lane. Cyclists may abruptly change lane position due to railroad tracks, debris, potholes, or grates.

Do NOT drive 'side by side' or close behind a cyclist.

Pass cyclists with a minimum of 3 feet; allow plenty of room.

New pass cyclists and immediately turn right.

Scan traffic intersections for cyclists.

Do NOT honk, yell, or otherwise harass cyclists. It is dangerous.